

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes 322 and 323. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 322 and 323.

HONORING WALTER HAASE AS THE NEWEST ELECTED MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL UTILITY GROUP

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Walter Haase for being elected to the board of directors of the American Public Power Association. Mr. Haase was appointed to this prestigious position during the association's annual meeting in Anaheim, California.

Since the year 2000, Mr. Haase has served as the general manager of the Jamestown Board of Public Utilities. He has seen the BPU through numerous modernizations and updates. Currently, Mr. Haase is working to create a brand new power plant to replace the existing one.

To its credit, the nationwide association encompasses more than 2,000 community-owned electric utilities allowing it to serve more than 43 million customers.

Jamestown's board was formed in 1940 and is a charter member.

I am honored Mr. Speaker, to have an opportunity to honor Mr. Walter Haase for this noteworthy honor and for his innovations in the field of public utilities.

ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE IX

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the 33rd anniversary of the day Congress passed Title IX, in support of the landmark legislation that prohibited gender discrimination in education programs and activities receiving federal funds.

Title IX provides for equal opportunity for women and girls in areas related to access to higher education, athletics, career education, education for pregnant and parenting students, employment, learning environment, math and science education, sexual harassment, standardized testing, and technology.

Unfortunately, recent action by the Bush Administration and Secretary Spellings has

threatened provisions providing for equal opportunities for girls and women in sports. This new interpretation of Title IX compliance now only requires that schools survey current female students regarding their interest in sports. A lack of response can be assumed a lack of interest. This process has several flaws, including the reliance on using only email as an effective tool for soliciting feedback on such an important law.

Unfortunately, because this interpretation was deemed a simple "clarification" by the Bush administration, there will be no public comment period, despite the serious concerns the public has raised regarding this change. This is not the first time the American people have raised concerns regarding this issue, nor is it the first time this Administration has tried to weaken Title IX.

In 2002, the Administration attempted to change this policy through the establishment of the Commission on Opportunity in Athletics. The Commission made several negative recommendations that weakened the goals of Title IX, but significant public outcry prevented these misguided policy changes. Given this kind of public commitment to this issue, I am very concerned about the way in which this most recent "clarification" has happened—late on a Friday afternoon, without any consultation or time for feedback despite a clear history of interest in this issue.

Over the past 30 years, significant movements have ensured more opportunities for women and girls. In fact young women's participation in athletics has increased by 400 percent at the college level and by 800 percent in high schools. Title IX has provided opportunities for female athletes; however, they continue to be shortchanged in terms of athletic scholarship opportunities, facilities, and other benefits and services. Women and girls receive only 41 percent of athletic opportunities today, despite the fact that they constitute more than half of student enrollments. Vigorous enforcement of Title IX, rather than the weakening of compliance measures, must be the goal of the Department of Education. This is a time to continue to ensure women and girls are offered equal athletic opportunities at all levels of their abilities.

Last month, I convened a roundtable discussion in my district with nearly 50 students, coaches, Title IX compliance officers, and athletic directors regarding the "clarification." They shared their stories about what sporting opportunities were like before Title IX compared to the opportunities girls and women have now, their commitment to Title IX, and their concerns regarding efforts to weaken it. In fact, some schools shared that because this particular measure of Title IX compliance is so weak in demonstrating equal opportunities, they do not plan to use it, but rather they will use other measures.

I am proud of the female athletes in Minnesota—not only for their accomplishments but for their willingness to stand up and ensure these opportunities remain for generations of women to come.

It is in their honor that I rise today in recognition of these women trailblazers in athletics and education to call on President Bush and Secretary Spellings to immediately withdraw this harmful "clarification" and to support efforts that strengthen, rather than weaken, Title IX.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on Friday and was regretfully unable to cast my vote on rollcall No. 315, rollcall No. 316, rollcall No. 317, rollcall No. 318, rollcall No. 319, rollcall No. 320, and rollcall No. 321.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 315, "yea" on rollcall No. 316, "no" on rollcall No. 317, "yea" on rollcall No. 318, "yea" on rollcall No. 319, "yea" on rollcall No. 320, and "no" on rollcall No. 321.

HONORING ROBERT BOOTH AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE DISTINGUISHED TEACHING PROFESSOR AWARD

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exemplary educational service of Robert Booth, a resident of Chautauqua County, Village of Fredonia, upon receiving the title of Distinguished Teaching Professor, the highest rank bestowed by the SUNY system on faculty members.

Booth is a Visual Arts and New Media department official at the State University of New York College at Fredonia, and is one of only nine professors statewide to receive this honor.

Since 1978 Booth has dedicated much of his time and energy to his students, and is committed to them on many levels. He always is willing to help and guide them, while still letting them be ultimately responsible for his or her education.

In addition to teaching, Booth is also known in Chautauqua County for his art restorations of the Marks Fountain in Fredonia's Barker Commons and the King Neptune fountain that resided in Dunkirk's Washington Park. Booth is a well respected artist whose work is featured all over the eastern part of the United States.

Booth is currently the coordinator of the In Sight/On Site sculpture project at SUNY Fredonia and the facilitator of the GWB Visual Arts Award Scholarship. He resides in Fredonia, with his wife, and two children.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3010) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to express the overwhelming support that hundreds of my constituents have demonstrated for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. I share their concern about the partisan attacks to eliminate funding and undermine the Corporation's commitment to providing objective and educational programming.

As a member of the Congressional Public Broadcasting Caucus, I have learned how critical Federal funding is for CPB in order to ensure the continued availability of educational, innovative, objective, and locally-relevant programming provided by public radio and television stations across the country. This Republican appropriations bill proposes to strip 51 percent of CPB's total Federal funding—a cut so drastic it will negatively impact every public television and radio station's ability to provide the free and unbiased programs that millions of Americans count on every day. Currently, Federal funding for CPB totals just \$1.50 per American per year. In addition, this Federal funding successfully leverages more than five additional dollars from private sources. For these reasons, I am pleased to support Mr. OBEY's amendment to restore \$100 million to CPB.

Public broadcasting is an essential source of information for millions of Americans. America's educators depend on public broadcasting—it's their top choice for classroom video, and a leading source of online lesson plans. Nationwide surveys find that public broadcasting is the single most trusted national institution. And, public broadcasting is exceptional because it's local. Unlike the large media conglomerates that dominate commercial TV, the 348 PBS stations across the country are locally owned and operated—accountable to the local communities they serve.

In my home State of Minnesota, we are proud of the high quality public broadcasting our State has known for years. Minnesota Public Radio and Twin Cities Public Television are treasures that provide balanced news, insightful information, and exceptional entertainment over the public airwaves. They deserve our support and the support of the Federal Government. Nearly 900 constituents have e-mailed, phoned, and written to my office regarding their support for public broadcasting.

It is with a commitment to ensuring that my constituents continue to have access to high quality, unbiased information, as well as thoughtful and educational programming, that I rise today in support of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, due to a long-standing appointment in my Congressional District, I was unavoidably absent for the legislative day of Monday, June 27th, 2005.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 322 and "yea" on rollcall vote 323.

HONORING FOREST HILL FIRE-
RESCUE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fire-Rescue station of Forest Hill, Texas. The Forest Hill department will soon be unveiling state-of-the-art equipment to help assist in widespread disaster.

The equipment to be unveiled was purchased with the funds issued by Texas State Homeland Security Grant and the Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant of \$523,000 and \$37,600 respectively. On the morning of July 12th, Forest Hill Fire-Rescue will unveil the newest purchases in "specialized equipment" that will help serve during times of natural or man-made disasters. In addition to using the grant money in such sensible and viable means, the Forest Hill Rescue Department employed their newly acquired resources as means to establishing the much acclaimed Southern Emergency Response and Preparedness Association, SERPA. SERPA was designed to develop relationships with other local departments and to create standard operating guidelines in the case of widespread emergencies.

Mr. Speaker, as their Congressman, I want to congratulate Fire Chief Pat Ekiss and his department for allocating the grant funds in a useful manner and to thank them for their dedication in assisting and saving others. It is with the service and dedication of department's such as the Forest Hill Fire and Rescue that ensure the continuing protection and prominence of our communities and nation.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3010) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, nearly 70 years ago, Franklin Delano Roosevelt stated in his second inaugural address that "the test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little." The FY06 Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriation bill has failed that test.

Although I commend Chairman REGULA and Mr. OBEY, our ranking member, for their tireless efforts to provide deserving citizens with necessary programs, this bill is a product of having too little to fund valuable initiatives. The tax cuts enjoyed by the wealthiest 1 percent of our population have left this Congress unable to continue funding essential programs that directly impact the least, the last, and the lost. The cuts in education, energy assistance, and healthcare services are signs of what I believe are an unraveling of our economic tapestry.

Our youngest and most vulnerable citizens will be disproportionately affected by Federal fiscal budget constraints in this Labor, Health and Human Services bill. Even at birth, this bill is putting some at a disadvantage. The Maternal and Child Health Block grant program has been cut even though scientific evidence proves the importance of prenatal care. Despite the fact that we recognize the need to provide access to care for young people whose families are unable to provide other sources of treatment, this valuable program has suffered a \$24 million cut.

Beyond health care, our most vulnerable citizens will continue to bear the brunt of enormous tax cuts in education. Title I funding, aimed at helping low-income children in failing schools improve their reading and math skills, will be \$9.9 billion below the No Child Left Behind funding promise. And to make matters worse, the same children who will be unable to benefit from enrichment programs due to a lack of funds will go home in the winter months to cold and uncomfortable temperatures because the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program has been cut by almost \$200 million.

It is time to take a step back to re-evaluate the path we have chosen for the people of this Nation. I will continue to work tirelessly with my colleagues, community partners, and concerned citizens to ensure that all people are able to receive excellent care at an affordable rate—because one must not place a price tag on the health and well-being of our nation's most vulnerable citizens, our children. I would like to leave you all with some other valuable words that Mr. Roosevelt imparted to us: "It is common sense to take a method and try it. If it fails, admit it frankly and try another. But above all try something." I urge all of my colleagues to try another method.

GAMBLING

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, gambling is no longer just limited to the casinos in Las Vegas and Atlantic City. There are now more than 400 tribal casinos in 30 States, online gambling is booming and ESPN and other cable